Aboriginal Health Needs Assessment Key Insights

June 2026

A young and growing community

From ABS Census 2021, Greater Adelaide Region [1]

23 median age

23,761 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

15 Aboriginal languages spoken

51% identified as female

11,845 households

86% of those in labor force were employed

Community told us what supports good health

Adelaide PHN (APHN) Region, Community Consultations, 2026

Culture, family and connection to Country are central to health and wellbeing

Safe, stable housing and meeting basic needs are fundamental to good health

Affordable, accessible dental care is essential to health and wellbeing

Community-led, culturally safe care supports engagement

Need for services and supports that are culturally safe, relationship-based and Aboriginal-led

Health is shaped by more than healthcare

- **Employment rates are high and educational attainment is growing**, with the majority of residents completing Year 12 or higher [1]
  Greater Adelaide Region, 2021
- Community told us **workplace cultural safety** remains a concern
- **Housing affordability** and **housing stress** continue to affect many households [1]
  Greater Adelaide Region, 2021
- **Food security** [2] and **cost-of-living pressures** continue to influence health and wellbeing
  SA, 2022-23

59% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people rent their home [1]
Greater Adelaide Region, 2021

19% of all homeless people in South Australia were Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander [3]
SA, 2021

Need for integrated pathways between primary care, housing and social support

Physical health and prevention

96%
of 5 year olds fully vaccinated [4]
APHN Region, 2025

91%
of babies born at a healthy birthweight [5]
Major cities, SA, 2023

84%
of mothers attended 5 or more antenatal visits [6]
SA, 2023

Smoking and risky alcohol use during pregnancy continue to decline [7]
Greater Adelaide, 2023

Participation in sport, cultural activities and community life supports healthy behaviours

Multi-morbidity
affects a substantial proportion of people [1]
Greater Adelaide Region, 2021

19,500
people living with disability [8]
Non-remote SA, 2022-23

4,000+
people require support for core activities [9]
SA, 2021

3,317
injury-related ED presentations [10]
APHN Region, 2021

4,616
injury-related hospital admissions [10]

Improvements in cancer screening and adolescent vaccination are needed
APHN Region, Community Consultations, 2026

Affordable dental care remains a community priority
APHN Region, Community Consultations, 2026

Need for earlier prevention, stronger screening, chronic disease management, injury prevention and accessible dental care

Improving access to healthcare

APHN Region, Community Consultations, 2026

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and Aboriginal-led services deliver **trusted, culturally grounded care**

0.8%
Only 0.8% of the health workforce identifies as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander [11]
APHN Region, 2023

9-30% Aboriginal Health Check uptake across areas [12]
APHN Region, 2016-2024

High engagement creates opportunities for prevention, screening and early management.

However, workforce constraints, resource limitations, fragmented pathways, cultural safety and competing life priorities continue to limit access.

Need for greater Aboriginal workforce capacity, coordinated care, system navigation and culturally safe access across the entire health sector

Supporting social and emotional wellbeing

APHN Region, Community Consultations, 2026

Family support and cultural connection are important protective factors

High levels of psychological distress remain a concern, and occur alongside strong protective factors

Existing crisis and response systems provide a foundation for strengthening earlier intervention and continuity of care

Intergenerational trauma, child protection involvement, justice system contact and community and family safety continue to shape health and wellbeing

Need for holistic, culturally responsive social and emotional wellbeing support across primary care, mental health and alcohol and other drug services

References

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